

**Watson town Borough
Council Meeting
July 25, 2016**

OPENING: The July 25, 2016 Watson town Borough Council Meeting was called to order by President Janet Rump at 7:30 pm. The meeting was held in Council Chambers at the Borough Building at 318 Main Street. The opening prayer was given by Mayor David Hontz and followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Members present were President Janet Rump, Vice President Harry Hefty, Dan Folk, Greg Miller, Ken Hollenbach, Mayor David Hontz, Solicitor Ryan Tira, Chief of Police Rodney Witherite, Borough Manager Jay Jarrett, and Secretary/Treasurer Brendi Brooke. Joshua Fogelman was absent.

OTHERS PRESENT: Gladys Klapp, Dennis Confer, Becky Hontz, Sherry Dyer, Connie Criswell, Russell McClintock, Pat Yeager, Ralph Young, Vera Young, Rob Brown, Cindy Crozier, Brandon Sperl, Buzz Reynolds, Hal Crozier, David Plotts, Virginia Wirth, Bob Frey, Viola Ranck, Brent Frey and Crystal Moyer.

APPROVAL of MINUTES: President Rump asked for approval of the minutes from the June 27, 2016 Council Meeting and the July 11, 2016 Committee Workshop. Before a motion was made, Becky Hontz of 507 Ash Street questioned the June 27th minutes. After further discussion, Harry Hefty amended a motion, which was originally seconded by Greg Miller to approve the minutes from the July 11, 2016 Committee Workshop only. The recording from the June 27th Council Meeting will be listened to again. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Rump	- yes	Hollenbach	- yes
Hefty	- yes	Folk	- yes
Fogelman	- absent	Miller	- yes

All in favor. Motion carried.

Also noted by President Rump during the discussion was that the Executive Session that followed the July 11th Committee Workshop adjourned at 8:15 pm. The Mayor and President Rump noted an Executive Session was held prior to tonight's meeting from 6:30 pm to 6:58 pm for litigation.

**BILLS &
TRANSFERS:**

A motion was made by Dan Folk, seconded by Greg Miller to approve the bills and transfers for July 2016 in the amount of \$281,915.52. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Hefty	- yes	Miller	- yes
Hollenbach	- yes	Rump	- yes
Folk	- yes		

All in favor. Motion carried.

**RENE TORO &
BARB DIEHL:**

Rene Toro & Barb Diehl were listed as visitors but were absent.

**SESQUI-
CENTENNIAL:**

Dennis Confer from 115 Murray Street spoke on behalf of the Sesquicentennial Committee. He requested a transfer of \$5,000.00 from the General Fund to the Sesquicentennial Fund; the transfer will help pay for bricks, mugs, hats and t-shirts that are being ordered in time for the yard sales in September. He said \$4,600.00 of the \$10,000.00 budgeted has already been put on hold and kept in the General Fund until it is needed. He requested an increase in funding of the fireworks from Hot Shot Pyrotechnics and lastly he asked permission to publicly announce the Borough's sponsorship of the Quaker City String Band. He feels it important to keep Watsontown's Sesquicentennial in the newspaper once a month, keeping it visible in the public eye and reminds the public it is coming in 2017.

President Rump clarified that Dennis was requesting the increase of \$8000 to \$10,000 for fireworks to be included in the upcoming 2017 budget. Dan Folk mentioned Sesquicentennial donation jars at locations in town; per Dennis, a flyer will be included in this month's electric bill for people to send donations as well. After further discussion, Harry Hefty made a motion, seconded by Dan Folk approving the transfer of \$5000 from the General Fund to the Sesquicentennial Fund and also approved the promotion of the Quaker City String Band including their photo.

Dennis also referenced a letter to the editor in various newspapers written by Alexis Moser.

A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Hollenbach	- yes	Rump	- yes
Folk	- yes	Hefty	- yes
Miller	- yes		

All in favor. Motion carried.

**COMMITTEES –
FINANCE:**

nothing

CEMETERY:

Jay said he met with Jeff from Custom Metal Coating; \$50,000.00 was a “number” given that would include the removal of the fence, transporting and putting the fence back into place, sandblasting and the coating. It was not in writing but he will work up a quote for us in writing. Solicitor Tira said it would have to be bid; Jay said Jeff was aware of that.

ELECTRIC:

nothing

INSURANCE:

nothing

**PARKS &
RECREATION:**

Ken Hollenbach said the seesaw has been installed at the smaller park at river. (inaudible)

TOMBSTONES:

Pat Yeager of 214 Liberty Street asked if anything has been done about the tombstones being knocked off their bases, as mentioned at a prior meeting by Dennis Confer. Jay said “not at this time”; “it is something we are going to deal with here as soon as we get through grass mowing season”. Per President Rump and Jay, it has been addressed and they’ve been talked to.

**PROTECTION
TO PERSONS &
PROPERTY:**

Mayor Hontz said he spoke to Jay regarding dead trees in the Borough.

**STREETS &
HIGHWAY:**

Dan Folk asked Jay about the sewer work that was done on Liberty Street; Jay said it was paved over.

**MANHOLE
COVERS:**

Buzz Reynolds asked about the manhole covers on Main Street. Dan Folk said MRSA is to take care of them. President Rump asked Jay to make note and bring it up at the next MRSA meeting. Jay said he would call the sewer plant tomorrow and “plant the seed for us”.

**WEED
SPRAYING:**

Pat Yeager of 214 Liberty Street asked if we were spraying for weeds yet. Jay said we are waiting on our license to come from the state; “he” passed his test, we had to get insurance for the state and now we are waiting for the license to come back.

**WASTE
MANAGEMENT:**

nothing

**TREES -
SEWER PLANT:**

Pat Yeager of 214 Liberty Street asked about the trees that were to be planted around the sewer plant. Jay said he sent an email but hasn’t heard back yet.

**ELM STREET
STORM WATER
PROJECT:**

Dan Folk made a motion to put the Elm Street storm water project out for bid. A second was given by Greg Miller. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Folk	- yes	Hefty	- yes
Miller	- yes	Hollenbach	- yes
Rump	- yes		

All in favor. Motion carried.

PLAQUE:

President Rump read the plaque as approved by Council at the last meeting:

*In honor of those who faithfully served
the Borough of Watsonstown.
A living reminder of all the hands that helped
build & strengthen our beautiful community.*

At this time, everyone was invited outside for the presentation and dedication of the plaque in the flower bed. Mayor David Hontz spoke regarding the Borough's origination and placed the plaque into the Borough planter, at the rear of the building, facing 4th Street. A round of applause followed. The group returned to the building to continue the meeting.

**MID-STATE
PAVING
ADDENDUM:**

Harry Hefty made a motion, seconded by Dan Folk to approve Addendum #1 to the paving contract with Mid-State Paving for additional work in the amount of \$3,105.00. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Miller	- yes	Hollenbach	- yes
Rump	- yes	Folk	- yes
Hefty	- yes		

All in favor, motion carried.

**REMOVAL OF
DEAD TREES:**

After a lengthy discussion, 2 of the trees are in Memorial Park, 2 of the trees are along Route 405 but in the process, Jay is to verify whether the other trees are on Borough property. Also discussed was a certificate of insurance and making sure insurance is sufficient; cleaning up was included for all work but grinding of the stumps was not included for the 2 trees along Route 405. Ken Hollenbach made a motion, seconded by Dan Folk to award Denny's Tree Service the bid to remove 7 dead trees in the Borough in the amount of \$3,100.00. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Rump	- yes	Folk	- yes
Hefty	- yes	Miller	- yes
Hollenbach	- yes		

All in favor. Motion carried.

**RFP's for
PENSION PLANS:**

President Rump said Council met with a neutral party; after review of the both pension plans, Council feels they can do better with the pension plans by seeking RFP's. Harry Hefty made a motion, seconded by Greg Miller for approval to seek Requests for Proposals for the management of the uniformed and non-uniformed pension plans. A call vote was taken as follows:

Hefty	-yes	Miller	- yes
Hollenbach	- yes	Rump	- yes
Folk	- yes		

All in favor. Motion carried.

**PENSION PLAN
REVIEW
COMMITTEE:**

President Rump established a committee to review the submitted proposals to manage the pension plans. She chose:

Mayor Hontz, Borough Manager Jay Jarrett,
Chief Witherite, President Rump, Harry Hefty & Bucky Allis

**TELE-
COMMUNICATION
POLICY:**

President Rump asked Council to consider a telecommunication policy for missing Council members. Jay said if Council choses, they can pass a resolution to adopt a telecommunications policy for members that are absent from a meeting. Solicitor Tira said it comes right from the Borough Code authorizing individuals to participate as long as they have access via audio communication so they can hear Council and Council can hear them. The Solicitor read reasons that would authorize participation by telecommunication device. Jay said "that" Council member doesn't count towards a quorum; a quorum must be in the building before "that" member could participate per telephone. It was clarified the resolution includes the Council members and the Mayor and for any meeting. Harry Hefty made a motion to pass the resolution; it was seconded by Greg Miller. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Hollenbach	- abstain	Rump	- yes
Folk	- yes	Hefty	- yes
Miller	- yes		

All in favor. Motion carried.

**PSAB
CONFERENCE:**

Harry Hefty made a motion, seconded by Dan Folk to pay for Jay to attend the PA Municipal Legal Update Conference in Harrisburg on August 3rd and 4th, 2016. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Folk	- yes	Hefty	- yes
Miller	- yes	Hollenbach	- yes
Rump	- yes		

All in favor. Motion carried.

TRANSFER TO MRSA:

Solicitor Tira presented an agreement for the final transfer of the remaining parts of the sewer system to Milton Regional Sewer Authority; it is a joint agreement that applies to Delaware Township, Delaware Township Municipal Authority, Watsontown Borough and Milton Regional Sewer Authority. It includes the lines and all existing pump stations and the transfer balances of any monies in the sewer accounts; including capital accounts and general sewer expense accounts.

Someone in the audience said the Borough should withhold the transfer until the manholes are fixed and the trees are planted in front of sewer plant. Ken Hollenbach made a motion to delay signing until said things are done; Solicitor Tira said Penn Vest is looking to finalize the documentation on the project; that is why MRSA is looking for the agreement now. Solicitor Tira recommended a list be given to MRSA so they can complete things as requested; he doesn't feel a punch list exists. After many comments and further discussion, Jay and Janet will go over the original agreement to find a punch list; Dan Folk seconded Ken's motion. Harry is to call Bill Michael and Jim Ranck. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Miller	- yes	Hollenbach	- yes
Rump	- yes	Folk	- yes
Hefty	- yes		

All in favor. Motion carried. President Rump thanked Pat for her input.

WRHS HOMECOMING PARADE & TRINITY UCC PEACH FESTIVAL:

Ken Hollenbach made a motion to approve the Warrior Run Homecoming Parade down Main Street on October 14th and the closing of 6th Street on August 27th for the Peach Festival. A second was given by Dan Folk. Jay and the Chief will work out details. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Rump	- yes	Folk	- yes
Hefty	- yes	Miller	- yes
Hollenbach	- yes		

All in favor. Motion carried.

REPORTS – MAYOR:

**CANAL BOAT
MARKER:**

The Mayor spoke regarding the placement of an authentic Pennsylvania Canal Boat marker as donated by Jimmy Johnson to the Pathways Committee. The Mayor has discussed and presented a location near the Canal Boat; he requested approval for him to install the marker at the approved area at no expense to the Borough or anyone else. He said Mr. Johnson is getting up there in years and is anxious to see it in place. Jay said they would put in a One Call before it is placed and the Mayor said the Pathways/Warrior Run Corporation will have signage installed sometime in September. Harry Hefty made a motion, seconded by Dan Folk to approve the Mayor's installation of the marker. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Hefty	- yes	Miller	- yes
Hollenbach	- yes	Rump	- yes
Folk	- yes		

All in favor. Motion carried.

POLICE:

written

**NATIONAL
NIGHT OUT:**

Chief Witherite spoke regarding National Night Out on Tuesday, August 2nd at the Warrior Run Fire Department. Jay spoke of the Borough's involvement in this year's event. The Chief mentioned pony rides.

**POLICE PRESS
RELEASE:**

President Rump questioned the Chief about no press release regarding threats made against a recent visitor. The Chief said the matter was being handled by the District Attorney's office and no prosecution, therefore no press release.

**FIRE &
AMBULANCE:**

written

**EMERGENCY
MANAGEMENT:**

The Mayor mentioned National Night out; it is from 6 to 8 pm.

**CODE
ENFORCEMENT:**

written

Jay said "as Council is aware, we were in court with a resident last month"; he has spoken to this resident probably 6 times in the last 2 weeks; he had an appointment with a landscaper earlier this evening to look at the property and talk about some things; he hopes for a positive outcome at the end of this. The meeting was postponed because of the weather.

WEEDS:

Ralph Young of 410 Liberty Street asked about other properties in town that have weeds. President Rump mentioned the following properties being handled by code enforcement:

- 1002 Elm Street
- 1014 Elm Street
- 113 Elm Street
- 40 South Main Street

Jay said regarding court, she has until on August 4th to appeal. Solicitor Tira said to confirm with the magistrate but if she doesn't comply within the time period, she can be cited daily for non-compliance.

Ralph Young also asked about 414 Liberty Street.

Ken Hollenbach made a motion to cite the homeowner for non-compliance every day after August 4th until she complies.

Someone asked why her neighbor across the street isn't being dealt with. Numerous people were commenting. President Rump said "this" property isn't on the list; Jay said properties are put on the list when complaints are filed.

Dan Folk seconded Ken's motion to proceed with daily citations starting August 5th until she is in compliance. After further conversation, Ken Hollenbach said all properties should be handled the exact same way, Jay confirmed. This was also seconded by Dan Folk. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Hollenbach	- yes	Rump	- yes
Folk	- yes	Hefty	- yes
Miller	- yes		

All in favor. Motion carried.

Janet asked the crowd to keep the chitter chatter down so everyone can hear.

Ken asked that the Boy Scouts or family be contacted regarding one of the properties on Elm Street (Mrs. Rae). Jay said a letter was sent by the Code Officer but he's not sure that he's heard anything yet.

SOLICITOR:

nothing

**BOROUGH
MANAGER:**

written

Harry Hefty asked if there has been any progress in getting a mower for the river bank; Jay said a brush hog was rented. It worked pretty good but not as well as they had hoped because of a traction issue with the skid loader. They used it for some parts but hand trimmed the rest. President Rump said they worked on about 1/3 of the river bank today.

PUBLIC WORKS: written

STREET LIGHT GLOBE: Dennis Confer of 115 Murray Street inquired with Brendi about 3 months ago regarding a crooked street light on First Street. He said it is a Borough Standard light pole with a crooked globe on it; he was told it was not Borough property; it belongs to the resident who lives in Maryland. He said it would only take a few minutes to use the bucket truck to fix it; Dan Folk said it doesn't belong to the Borough. Dennis is concerned that it could fall on someone; Dan Folk said it would be the property owners fault. Solicitor Tira said to consider this as a complaint as to the condition and have codes go check into it and cite them with a notice so there is a record; Jay made note of it.

THANK YOU/DONATION: Brendi read a thank you card that included a \$525 anonymous donation towards the restoration of the Algert Fountain.

MOMENT of SILENCE: Ken Hollenbach requested a moment of silence in memory of Jack Marshall and his family. President Rump said it would be observed at the end of the meeting.

SHADE TREE COMMISSION: Harry Hefty spoke of a possible shade tree commission. Further discussion took place.

GRANT APPLICATION: Ken asked about the status of the grant to which Jay replied. He said it could take a few months; DCED moves at its own pace; we may hear by September but funding may not be until January or February. A copy of a letter of support from Senator Gordner's office was received on Friday and Representative Culver previously wrote one.

JACK MARSHALL: At this time, a moment of silent meditation was observed in honor of Jack Marshall whom served 8 years on Borough Council and dedicated a lot of time and service.

ADJOURNED: There being no further business to come before Council, the meeting was adjourned by President Rump at 8:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Brendi L. Brooke, Secretary Treasurer